

Application No.: 09/732,066
Amendment dated: November 11, 2004
Reply to Office Action of: May 20, 2004

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated May 20, 2004 in which the Patent Office rejects claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,732,176 to Stewart et al. (the '176 patent). Applicant argues that the claims of the present application are not anticipated by the '176 patent.

The claims have been amended for clarity so it is clear where certain steps are taking place. In addition, the term "network" has been amended to "network carrier" to make it clear that it is the "network carrier" as an entity that is being referred to. Claims 1, 11, and 15 of the present application recite generally: 1) determining the activation status of the network carrier for a computer or PDA; 2) configuring the computer or PDA using network carrier information; and 3) connecting the computer or PDA with a network carrier.

In contrast, the '176 patent describes a process wherein a portable communication device makes contact with a network and then determines device's network provider. This is done using a particular type of data structure. The '176 patent also describes a type of service provider which permits various types of service and information providers to be connected to the network. Information may be provided to a user based on known geographic location of the user. The '176 patent describes a way that allows a user of a portable communication device to *roam* on various networks wherein each of numerous network providers offers access on a common network infrastructure. This also allows subscribers of a particular network provider to roam on other networks.

None of this anticipates the claimed invention. The claimed invention is a generic framework within a computer or PDA that can be *configured to be compatible* with multiple carriers and can be used with multiple wireless network types. A computer or PDA no longer has to be manufactured to operate with a specific carrier or network. Claim 1 recites a method of activating a network between a computer and a network carrier and using the network activation information to configure the computer in order to establish network activation with a carrier. Claim 15 recites the same limitations as claim 1 as embodied in a computer-readable medium.

Independent claim 11 recites a configurable plug-in device which contains an API tailored to a particular carrier. The plug-in device is configured to receive a network activation

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command from a driver component in the computer or PDA. The plug-in device can also be configured to be operable in a generic activation framework. Essentially, each plug-in device can be tailored to a specific carrier or network type. Thus, the ROM of the computer or PDA does not have to be altered to fit a particular carrier or network type.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejections in view of the above arguments. Favorable consideration and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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